



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RECOUP \$3 MILLION IN CITY EMPLOYEE DEBT**

*Increased enforcement of City policies will decrease waste of taxpayer dollars and increase accountability across City government*

Mayor Emanuel announced today that the City will immediately begin enforcing disciplinary actions on outstanding collection of approximately \$3 million in debt owed by City department and sister agency employees.

Employees will be informed by their department leadership of their outstanding debt and asked to comply immediately with the City's personnel debt policy or face disciplinary actions outlined by city ordinance, including 10 day suspensions and termination.

"I am creating a culture of accountability in City government and it simply is not acceptable that City employees have \$3 million in outstanding debt owed to Chicago's taxpayers," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

It is a violation of the City's Municipal code (Personnel Rule XVIII) for any City or sister agency employees to owe the City debt.

Currently, employees have seven to 30 days to pay outstanding debts in full or voluntarily enroll in a payroll deduction agreement, which can last up to 12 months.

The Departments of Revenue and Law will increase their pursuit of involuntary payroll deductions for the most egregious cases of outstanding debt collection. City of Chicago Comptroller Amer Ahmad will notify City departments and sister agencies of debt owed by their employees every quarter. The Comptroller will receive progress reports from City department and sister agency heads each week and these weekly reports will be posted online.



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In a letter to City department and sister agency leadership, the Mayor states, “It is expected that you will make every effort to ensure your employees come into compliance by paying the debt in full or entering into a payment plan by October 31, 2011.” Failure of an employee to come into compliance could result in discipline, up to and including discharge. For City employees, the following could be used in administering discipline for non-compliance:

<u>Past-Due Amount</u>	<u>Disciplinary Action</u>
\$1,000 and over	Discharge
\$ 500 to \$1,000	29-day suspension
\$ 250 to \$ 500	15-day suspension
Below \$ 250	10-day suspension

As of September 28, 2011, debt owed by employees of City and sister agencies was as follows:

**EMPLOYEE INDEBTEDNESS**

Department	9/28/2011			
	Dept Size	Employees	Due	% Employees w Debt
Administrative Hearing	39	3	\$557	7.7%
Aviation	1,260	75	\$30,270	6.0%
Board Of Election Commissioner	112	9	\$3,711	8.0%
Board of Ethics	7	1	\$236	14.3%
Buildings	284	16	\$4,509	5.6%
Business Affairs & Consumer Protection	186	12	\$5,105	6.5%
Chicago Public Library	1,041	45	\$11,988	4.3%
City Clerk	97	7	\$1,667	7.2%
City Council	420	40	\$12,530	9.5%
City Treasurer	19	0	\$0	0.0%
Animal Care and Control	66	5	\$2,873	7.6%
Commission on Human Relations	28	1	\$331	3.6%
Community Development	227	9	\$1,970	
Compliance	23	1	\$200	4.3%
Department of Innovation and Technology	91	3	\$421	3.3%
Environment	57	2	\$269	3.5%



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Family and Support Services	902	57	\$20,883	6.3%
Finance	181	9	\$8,166	
Fire Department	4,983	285	\$126,184	5.7%
Fleet Management	597	30	\$10,992	<b>6.8%</b>
General Services	461	42	\$13,049	
Graphics & Reproduction Center	31	2	\$728	
Human Resources	79	2	\$300	2.5%
Independent Police Review Authority	84	11	\$5,401	13.1%
Law	50	9	\$4,119	18.0%
Mayor's Office of Special Events	48	0	\$0	0.0%
Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities	33	0	\$0	0.0%
Office of Budget & Management	50	2	\$600	4.0%
Office of Emergency Management & Communications	1,318	116	\$38,890	8.8%
Office of the Mayor	73	1	\$200	1.4%
Police	13,973	988	\$326,646	7.1%
Procurement Services	59	1	\$345	1.7%
Public Health	844	61	\$21,281	7.2%
Revenue	405	29	\$35,985	<b>6.5%</b>
Streets and Sanitation	2,127	247	\$104,816	11.6%
Transportation	1,126	95	\$31,025	8.4%
Water Management	1,787	162	\$55,645	9.1%
Zoning and Land Use Planning	69	2	\$473	<b>3.7%</b>
<b>Total City</b>	<b>33,237</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>\$882,366</b>	<b>7.2%</b>

Chicago Board of Education	48,796	3,153	\$1,074,829	6.5%
Chicago Housing Authority	502	39	\$10,400	7.8%
Chicago Park District	6,420	492	\$246,174	7.7%
Chicago Transit Authority	10,279	2,098	\$714,544	20.4%
City Colleges of Chicago	1,867	101	\$30,298	5.4%
<b>Total Sister Agency</b>	<b>67,864</b>	<b>5,883</b>	<b>\$2,076,244</b>	<b>8.7%</b>

**Total City & Sister Agency      101,101      8,263      \$2,958,611      8.2%**

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